

Vansville Elementary School



Home of the Wildcats

Tom Smith
Principal

September 2010

Shawna Holden
Asst. Principal

From the Principal's Desk

It was with great excitement to see our children return for another productive year at Vansville. The students have returned full of energy and have started the school year off right with their wonderful behavior. As with any opening, there were a few hick-ups with afternoon transportation. However, all parents and students were extremely patient with the school system to resolve such issues. It has been gratefully noted of the patience our parents are bringing when it comes to dropping students off and following staff directions in the morning. A kind, welcoming word sets the tone for all, especially the children.

Our first PTA will be held September 21 beginning at 6:30 pm. Normally our PTA meetings are the second Tuesday of each month but due to the 14th being a holiday, we will push it back a week. **PLEASE GET INVOLVED BY JOINING.** With 800+ students, we averaged last year 10 parents showing up...that's right 10...TEN!! To put it bluntly...not good!!!

Last year students in grades 3-6 took the Maryland State Assessment (MSA). Staff, parents and students worked extremely hard to get our students ready to demonstrate their vast amount of knowledge in Math, Reading and Science. In reading, of the 324 students tested, 87.8% scored either advanced or proficient on the test. This exceeded the state mandate by eleven percentage points. In Math, 85.6% of the tested students scored advanced or proficient exceeding the state mandate by 13.5 percentage points. We have yet to receive the science data. Our average daily attendance was 97.2%, exceeding the state mandate of 94%. What a great job everyone did. For a further breakdown, please visit www.mdreportcard.org. Individual student test scores are anticipated to be mailed out early October.

I look forward to working with everyone in a very proactive manner this year. If you should have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, please remember the first line of communication is with the child's teacher. We are in the process of posting everyone's email on our webpage.

Again, THANKS for a great opening.

Arrival

Students are expected to arrive at school between 7:30 AM and 7:45 AM.

Children who walk to school or ride in private cars should not arrive at school before 7:25 AM, as supervision is not available. Students should be in their seats and ready to learn at 7:55 AM. Breakfast service for non-bus riders ends at 7:45 AM. You are tardy at 7:45 AM!!!! Parents are expected to let children enter the school independently.

Tardiness

Children may enter the school building beginning at 7:25 AM each day. They are expected to be seated and ready for the school day to begin at 7:45 AM. The beginning of the day is extremely important for students and teachers. When a child arrives late, the class and teacher are inconvenienced and the late student is unaware of announcements and instruction that has already been given. In addition, arriving on time is a habit that we work to establish with all children at a young age. We urge parents to make every effort to have your child at school on time each day. Students arriving late, after 7:50 AM, must report with their parent/guardian to the office to obtain a late pass to take to their teacher. Excessive tardies may result in a referral to the Pupil Personnel Worker for further action.



Early Dismissal

No child is permitted to leave the building during the school day without written permission from home and approval from the school office. If it is necessary for a student to be dismissed early from school, parents are asked to send a note to the child's teacher. The note will be given to the school office for verification. When arriving to pick up children for early dismissal, parents must report to the front office. Office staff will notify the teacher that you have arrived and your child will meet you in the office. If an adult outside the family is picking up a child, that person must be designated in writing. This precaution is in the interest of maintaining your child's security. Early dismissals are only permitted prior to 1:45 PM. Following that time, you will have to wait for normal dismissal procedures. This helps ensure a smooth dismissal for all.

Dates to Remember

- ☞ Sept. 6: No School – Labor Day
- ☞ Sept. 9: No School – Rosh Hashanah
- ☞ Sept. 14: No School – Primary Elections
- ☞ Sept. 15: Back to School Night – Headstart–Gr. 2 @ 6pm
- ☞ Sept. 16: Back to School Night – Gr. 3–Gr. 5 @ 6pm
- ☞ Sept. 24: School Closed



- ☞ Oct. 14: ½ day for students.
- ☞ Oct. 15: No school –MSEA Convention for teachers
- ☞ Oct. 29: End of 1st Quarter



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News from inside the classroom...

Dress Code

- No hats or "skull-caps" are to be worn at any time. Headdresses can be worn indoors for religious or health reasons only.
- Shirts and blouses should be continuous from neckline to waist. The entire mid-section should not show.
- No spaghetti strap tops, tank tops or muscle shirts.
- No clothing with vulgar language, obscene pictures, weapons, drugs/alcohol, drug paraphernalia and/or tobacco products.
- No identifiable gang/crew clothing or paraphernalia.
- No see-through clothing.
- Skirts, dresses, shorts, and spandex skirts should be approximately six (6) inches below the buttocks, or no shorter than fingertip level.
- Pants should be secured at the waist; no sagging below waist to expose undergarments.
- Tights, stretch pants, leggings, and spandex body suits must be worn with clothing long enough to extend six (6) below the buttocks or no shorter than fingertip level. This is for all age levels.
- Soft-soled shoes must be worn. "Healies" (shoes with skates built in) are not permitted. Flip-flops are prohibited.

Students violating the dress code will have their parents contacted to secure proper clothing. If the parent is unable to provide proper clothing, the child will not be permitted in class and will be kept in the front office for the entire school day to complete assigned work.



Fantastic First Grade

We look forward to meeting you at Back to School night on Sept. 15. In Reading we are reviewing the alphabet and learning about reading strategies. Please read 20 minutes every night with your child. When finished reading, discuss what the story is about trying to remember as many details as the student can without looking back in the story. In science, we will begin learning about living and nonliving things. We will hatch Brine Shrimp in salt water, too. In math, we will review making numbers and comparing them. We will also start to introduce addition and subtraction skills.

Music Department

Chorus Rehearsals began this past week on Tuesday, August 31st for Fourth Grade and Wednesday, September 1st for Fifth Grade.

We are looking forward to a great, musical year with our Vansville Elementary Chorus!

Please remind your child to be on time for rehearsals!

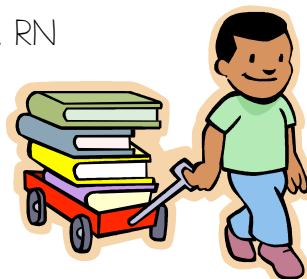
We have begun our music making for the 2010-2011 school year!

Please check your child's homework folder weekly for parent-teacher correspondence and details about music department projects and events.



Kindergarten

The kindergarten children are excited about school and have been doing a great job learning rules and routines and how to work together in the classroom. They have presented their "All About Me" bags to the class to help everyone learn more about their new friends. The kindergarten teachers are looking forward to meeting parents at Back to School night on Sept. 15th.



NURSE'S NOTES

Hooray! I want to thank all the parents that brought their children's medications and health forms back on the first week of school. With that said, we still are waiting for inhalers and epi-pens for many of our students with asthma and allergies. The medication forms are available on the PGCPs website on the Parent Page, under *Health Services*. You can always call me to request forms as well. Remember, asthma and severe food allergies can be a life threatening condition. We want to make sure we are working together to keep your child safe.

Thank You, Naomi Maxfield. RN

HAVE YOU JOINED
THE PTA?
MEETINGS ARE
HELD MONTHLY AT
6:30 ON THE
SECOND TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH!!